that is possible can be given, it will be of advantage to all concerned, because we will also study the subject and place our criticisms or other views before the Government.

The Customs form one of the large items of revenue that we get. We get 7 lakhs of rupees. Under Receipts, I find, Sir, 7 lakhs of rupees budgetted for 1101. For 1100, it was five lakhs and it was explained that we were getting 2 lakhs more. It is likely that we may get some more this year, so that this subject should not be entirely tahooed out of the purview of this House. Only the regulation of affairs relating to a sea-port cannot be discussed in the House. That would not mean that we cannot enter upon the domains of the Harbour question or study the subject. That is all my intention to bring this one-rupee cut. This must be taken into considerati n, and Government should see their way to take people also into confidence, so that people also could say whatever they have to say in the matter. I do not want to press this motion to a division. I am ready to withdraw it, if the Council permits.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

That has nothing to do with the subject.

President.—He has only taken the opportunity to speak something, not because that it has any connection with the subject.

The motion was withdrawn, with leave, and the grant was made.

Demand IX—Forests—Rs. 2·25 lakhs.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Sir, I rise to request for a grant of Rs. 2,06,718 under Demand IX, Forests.

Motion Nos. 26 to 32.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 91,290 for timber and other produce removed from forests by Sirkar agency by Rs. 3,290.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,740 for purchase of elephants, their capture, training, feeding and treatment by Rs. 100.

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Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,040 for timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers and purchasers by Rs. 6,040.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To omit the allotment of Rs.900 for Elephant Vicharippus.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,000 for T. A. by Rs. 1,000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,25,700 under Forests by Rs. 5,700.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,25,700 under Forests by Rs. 50,000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, in the five motions, four stand in my name and one is in the name of Mr. Salem. We are agreeable to confine the discussion on this subject to my motion for Rs. 5,700, that is the Forest Total, so that much time may be saved. I shall confine my remarks to that. There are three previous motions. I withdraw them and Mr. Salem also withdraws his motion.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

I shall also withdraw, so that the discussion may be confined to one head.

President.—The other motion, you see, is to reduce the total allotment for Forests, by Rs. 5,700. There is Mr. Eachara Menon's motion before that. It is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,000 for T.A. The single items should be taken up first.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

I do not press the motion.

Motion Nos. 26, 27 and 29 of Mr. C. A. Ouseph, No. 28 of Mr. A. B. Salem and No. 30 of Mr. A Eachara Menon were, with leave, withdrawn.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, I move that the allotment of Rs. 2,25,700 under Forest be reduced by Rs. 5,700. In doing so, I may make it clear that my object is in no way to paralyse

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the department. I move for the reduction of only a very small amount. Sir, let it also be understood that, by this motion, it is not intended to throw any reflection on the persons who are now responsible for carrying on the department. The fault lies not in the men, but with the system, and in this motion I am only attacking the system that is responsible for the denudation of our valuable forests and the depletion of our treasuries.

Sir, the Hon'ble Member for Forests stated in his reply in the budget discussions that the Tramway should be regarded as a supplement to the Forest Department, for whose working, he said, the Tramway has become an absolute necessity. Therefore, in examining the receipts and expenditure under Forests, we have to take into consideration those under Tramway also. Sir, I have prepared a table, to be placed before this House, showing the net income derived by the Government from the working of the Forest and the Tramway Departments from 1089–99. But before referring to these figures, I shall read certain statements in the Administration Reports of 1089 and 1090 touching on these matters. The Report of 1089 says:—"At the ordinary rate of working, the more valuable timber which alone can pay to transport by the Tramway, will be exhausted in about 4 years more, probably by the end of 1093, and it is patent that no other rate of working, unless it be heavier exploitation will pay, considering the large running expenses of the Tramway. On the other hand, the carrying capacity of the Tramway limits the rate of working.

* * * * * *

Thus the net result as far as can be seen at present, will be the total depletion of the State's existing stock of valuable teak and rose-wood in the area served by the Tramway, at a large cost to the State; in other words, the State will have had to pay for destroying its valuable timber in this area."

In the Report of 1090 we find the following significant remarks:—'The present considerable income from forests must inevitably decrease. The Forest Department has, owing to the exigencies of circumstances, till comparatively recently been more of an

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exploiting than a conserving agency. Steps are being taken to ensure that the primary functions of the Department will not be relegated to a place of subordinate importance."

I would request the Hon'ble Members not to be mislead by the figures given by the Forest Department in the budget estimate for 1101. Look at page 6, and it would seem the year 1099 with a receipt of three and half lakhs of rupees was not a lucky year, and that the matters are soon to improve. The budget estimate for 1100 gives five and three-fourth lakhs of rupees on the receipt side, and the same amount is estimated in the revised budget also. This agreement of figures in the budget estimate and on revision does not carry much meaning in this case of the department. Let us examine the figures for the past few years.

Year	Budget estimate	Revised estimate	Actuals
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1100	5,73,800	5,73,800	...
1099	6,10,300	5,63,900	3,58,125
1098	6,11,200	5,94,100	4,53,793
1097	5,17,200	5,38,900	3,69,000
1096	6,14,400	5,29,300	3,79,617
1095	5,15,000	6,41,000	5,11,433

The period previous to 1095 was one characterised by large demand for timber for after-war purposes. Hence there was feverish exploitation, then, of forest growth. The figures given above on the receipt side do not show the actual state of affairs, as from 1083 onwards the Tramway was treated as a separate administration unit. The following table gives in detail (i) the net earnings of the forest, making allowance for the loss in Tramway, (ii) the quantity of timber removed from the forest by Sirkar and private agencies and (iii) the quantity of timber sold by the Sirkar from 1089 to 1099.

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Year	Extraction: Sirkar: Teak	Extraction: Sirkar: Rose-wood	Extraction: Sirkar: Others	Extraction: Private: Teak	Extraction: Private: Rose-wood	Extraction: Private: Others	Sirkar sales: Teak	Sirkar sales: Rose-wood	Sirkar sales: Others	Net receipts after deducting Tramway expenses	Remarks as understood in the Administration Reports
1089	20,133	4,388	16,545	5,654	493	15,499	12,102	1,271	10.938	2,10,978	Decrease in yield due to limited collection, no new coupes being opened.
1090	7,373	2,555	6,625	4,929	678	13,786	11,557	491	17,413	2,15,963	Decrease in yield and disposal of teak due to limited collection and limited sale in foreign markets.
1091	10,177	1,510	9,687	2,240	336	15,492	12,484	369	13,396	2,22,528	
1092	12,301	1,918	4,090	1,863	280	26,290	9,080	665	4,833	—8,974	Limited extraction and sale of jungle-wood.
1093	5,930	1,051	7,102	2,315	171	18,021	4,981	447	6,501	1.99,310	
1094	2,491	622	10,790	2.318	348	9,032	3,877	1,101	8,901	2,03,946	
1095	758	46	7,760	1,262	51	14,263	2,248	750	7,744	2,36,638	Less sale of teak and rose-wood caused by damage to a bridge in the Tram line, transport being thus prevented.

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Year	Extraction						Sirkar sales			Net receipts after deduction Tramway expenses	Remarks as understood in the Administration Reports
	Sirkar			Private							
	Teak	Rose-wood	Others	Teak	Rose-wood	Others	Teak	Rose-wood	Others		
1096	1,2	170	3,063	1,124	73	22,341	2,220	670	4,889	70,085	
1097	118	2	2,884	980	54	13,853	890	743	8,185	31,446	Paucity of demand for teak and teak toplings
1098	387	99	7,691	961	70	10,585	2,006	1,057	4,718	88,833	Paucity of demand for timber, especially teak and rose-wood
1099	142	17	11,674	1,230	159	10,831	3,233	1,570	7,549	14,428	Tightness of money-market; cutting down of transport facilities by floods in Karkadagam 1099 and paucity of demand for timber
Total...	61,075	12,378	87,911	24,876	2,713	1,69,993	64,678	9,134	95,067	14,85,181	

At the beginning of 1089, the stock in hand was 22,787 candies of teak and 5,389 candies of rose-wood, and 24,211 candies of other species. The stock at the end of 1099 was 23,598 candies of teak, 5,657 candies of rose-wood and 12,034 candies of other species. It may also be noted, in this connection, that figures supplied by the Hon'ble Member for Forests in answer to question No. 53, regarding earnings of or loss by the Tramway during the last decade, are far from being correct, and, for the purposes of these tables, I have drawn upon the Administration Report figures.

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Income in Forest Department by means other than extraction of timber.

Year	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099
Quit rent on coffee ...	8,651	11,675	10,041	9,438	8,849	8.849	7,993	7,993	8,002	8,000	7,993
Rubber rent	...	...	9,222	14,817	16,890	16,880	21,259	23,460	19,774	26,960	24,946
Tree value, etc., in Disafforestation through Revenue Department.	69,166	24,354	15,919	3,476	8,887	32,202	17,176	14,534	8,910	11,314	48,396
Mills	25,304	31,270	64,469	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,03,121	67,299	99,642	27,731	**34,626**	57,931	46,428	45,987	36,686	45,274	81,335

The total from 1089 to 1099 under these miscellaneous items, for whose collection the Forest Department need not have spent a single pie, amounts to Rs. 6,46,060. This does not include the rubber rent in 1089 and 90, figures for which are not supplied by the Reports.

Thus, the net income from the Forests for 1089-99 stands credited with about 6¼ lakhs more than it had earned by its working. The balance, therefore, that can be credited to the department's actual working is about 8¼ lakhs. To get this income, during a period of 11 years, we have removed from the forests during the same period 85,951 candies of teak, 15,091 candies of rose-wood, 2,57,677 candies of jungle-wood and innumerable tons and cart-loads of fuel as well as innumerable bamboos. During this period the Government has sold from its depots 63,678 candies of teak, 9,134 candies of rose-wood and 95,05, candies of other jungle-wood. Compared to these enormous quantities of timber removed from the forest and sold, and compared to the enormous amounts expended by the Government in depleting our forests, the income during the last 11 years, i. e., 8¼ lakhs falls into a mere pittance, and once again we repeat the process referred to in the Administration Report of 1089, namely, "The State will have had to pay for destroying its valuable timber".

I shall examine the figures for 1099 alone in detail. In that year the receipts and the expenditure in the department stood at Rs. 3,58,125 and Rs. 2,05,921, respectively, showing a net surplus of Rs. 1,52 204. As against this has to be set off Rs. 1,37,776, being the net maintenance charges of the Tramway, in which no capital expenditure was met that year. The actual surplus, therefore, was 14,428. It may astonish any one to be told that during that year in which our net income stood at this low figure of Rs. 14,428, the Forest Department got Rs. 81,335 as quit rent on rubber and coffee tree value, etc., from the Revenue Department, to collect which the Forest Department have not had to take any pains. That year 1,230 candies of teak, 159 candies of rose-wood, 10,800 candies of jungle-wood, 2,02,695 bamboos and 4,451 tons and 11,800 cart-loads of fuel were removed by purchasers and

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consumers, and out of Government collections 3,233 candies of teak, 1,550 candies of rose-wood, 7,549 candies of jungle-wood and 4,532 tons of fuel were sold by the Government, while the Government removed 142 candies of teak, 17 candies of rose-wood, 11,674 candies of jungle-wood and 4,532 tons of fuel. With all this, with an extraneous and easy income of Rs. 81,335, our Forest Department was able to show in 1099 only a net saving of Rs. 14,428. These figures, I believe, are sufficient to show that the department is not working on a satisfactory basis and that there is no guarantee that there would be any return for the money we grant to be spent. Why, I ask, should we remove all the timber from our forests? The forests have their natural function to perform. They are the best cloud-catchers, and who knows that the erratic seasons we have been experiencing in the past few years are not the result of this process of denudation that has been going on unchecked.

Sir, the Forest Department has been complaining year after year that there was paucity of demand for timber, and that, therefore, they were unable to show good results. He is not a shrewd dealer, Sir, who, in the face of chronic paucity of demand, as in the case of this department, continues to add to his wares. In the budget discussion the Hon'ble Member for Forests said that, when I stated that several candies of timber worth Rs. 11 to 13 a candy were sold at Rs. 3 a candy, I was making only a partially true statement. Let me,for this purpose,admit the truth of this reply. The Conservator ot Forests has his Rangers and Foresters, and he has too many of them without much work, under the new re organisation. It is the duty of these men to stamp the trees before they are removed. Would the Hon'ble Member explain how it is that useless timber happened to be brought down to the plains?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

They are wind-fallen, Sir, and they will catch fire.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, cannot this burning process be carried on in the forest under proper supervision? If that is done, we can avoid the loss of Rs. 6 or 7 per candy. Sir,

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from the figures supplied by me regarding the balance of stock in 1099, it will be seen that most of the timber brought down from 1092 onwards must be lying in the depots unsold. If so, Sir, where is the necessity to bring down timber again?

Regarding the allotment for purchase of elephants, capture, &c., it need only be said that our experiments in elephant-capture have not, during the last several years, been successes. Every year we are spending large amounts on this item with very small or no return. The policy followed by the department has only succeeded in necessitating the purchase of a decoy-elephant by a State, which, not long ago, was noted for its large herd of famous and well-trained elephants. I do not believe this House would allow such unsuccesssful experiments to be carried on again.

Regarding the Elephant Vicharippu, I need only say that no case has been made out for taking elephant treatment out of the hands of the Veterinary Surgeon trained at Nilambur. It is a striking factor in our elephant maintenance that, from 1091 onwards, several elephants have met untimely graves. Sir, I appeal to the House to pass this motion.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Sir, I will take up the charges one by one. First, as to the Conservancy of the Forest Department. Prior to 1083 or 1084, when the State Railway was introduced, the forests of Machad, Paravattany and Pothundies were worked very heavily to supply the sleeper demand of the Railway. With the advent of Mr. Banerji as Diwan, these forests were got inspected minutely, and their closure for a period of 25 to 30 years ordered. Since then, the forests of Machad and Paravattany were not worked at all, for any standing tree. The Tramway had, in the meanwhile, been opened—to a certain extent though not fully—and a programme to work the forests tapped by the Tramline was introduced. This is still in force. The full opening of the Tramline was in 1081 or 1082.

Mr C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

In 1079 the Tramline was formally opened for traffic by Lord Ampthill.

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Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I only said that the full opening of the Tramline was in 1081 or 1082, when the whole length of the line was constructed. Part of the line, for traffic, existed even in 1078 or 1079. Since the forests of Machad and Paravattany, which had been in the past worked heavily, had been ordered to be closed for some time, and since, then, the forests tapped by the Tramline were opened for working, these latter were decided to be worked intensely, and the former were worked only to the extent of taking out wind-fallen and dead standing trees. This is what is being done in the direction of conservancy, as remarked by one Hon'ble Member. No standing tree of any superior specie is cut from the closed forests. The member said that at Pattikad some thousands of candies were sold at Rs. 3 a candy; I pointed out to the House, the other day, the correct quantity sold at Rs. 3, which was only 300 candies. All the rest was sold at much higher rates.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

How did this 300 come there?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I am explaining. We got all these timber from Village Reserves. These are not from standing, green trees but from wind-fallen and dry, standing ones. We got them marked and collected, and sold about 100 candies at rates varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 a candy. The balance of about 300 candies, which was not even fit for fuel, was sold at Rs. 3 a candy.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Why was that removed?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Because dead timber lying in a forest is a source of danger from fire.

When this above timber was collected, we had a good market for timber, being war time. We never anticipated that there would be a great fall in the price of timber. All that we could sell at the time of demand we sold away.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Are we not stocking?

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Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Yes, we are stocking to the extent of existing contracts. We are only cutting from the forests tapped by the Tramline.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

May we know why no step was taken 7 or 8 years ago?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I explained that the other day.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

May we know whether the present stock, which is standing there, will last for 7 or 8 years more?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I cannot say. That depends on the market demand.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

The answers given do not tally with the figures given in the Administration Reports; that is about the working of the Tramway. Now, we shall see at what rate the maintenance charges work. Suppose, we calculate the transport charges for 2 years at the rate of 40,000 candies, that is, 20,000 candies a year. Then the maintenance charges come to Rs. 3,00,000. Dividing this 3 lakhs by 40,000, we arrive at a figure which, considering the net gain to the Government, is light. We cannot be certain that the figures for any year, with regard to the working of the Tramway are correct. We are not given any data, and the answers given to the questions do not supply any separate figures for the forests worked by the Tramway, nor do we understand how the rate for transport charges was arrived at.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Are we to understand that they are based on imaginary figures?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

They are based on the figures of 2 years. In my opinion, I think the rate is not correct, and I do not know how to arrive at a correct rate.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

That could have been stated so, instead of putting incorrect figures. Suppose, we leave the work of removing the timber to private agency, which would work according to the line from Parambikulam?

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Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

The question never came up. I did not say that they will be able to get on with the work.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

I was putting the question whether we can work.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

In view of the inclines and all that, I do not think that a private agency will be able to work. Besides, if you scrape off the Tramline, it will be benefiting nobody. We have invested so much on the Tramline. We must try if we can make the best out of it, before we quit the area. We do not wish to be there a minute longer than we can help. Mr. Ouseph will have noted that there is a proposal before the Government to take a feeder line to Chirakadavu, a distance of six miles. We hope to finish off all the area tapped by this line, in four years' time, at a gross sale proceeds of Rs. 7,20,000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

That is for another House to comment upon. We do not speculate.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Then, as to the observation of some of the members on the other side that paucity of rainfall is due to cutting down of the forests, it has been proved beyond any doubt that forests have nothing to do with rainfall. But forests have a great influence on the underground water available.

Coming to "Elephants", a sum of Rs. 13,740 is shown as expenditure against a revenue of Rs. 4,800. We have now 19 elephants in stock. Of these, only 4 are fit for and trained for work. The others are recent captures and not yet fit for work. It is only from the 4 animals that we get a revenue of Rs. 4,800. We do not purchase elephants. We train our own decoys.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

May I know what the income from an elephant is?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

It is about Rs. 1,000 a year.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know what the expense of keeping an elephant comes to?

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Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

That depends on the size of the animal.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Will it exceed Rs. 1,000?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I cannot say.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Do you know roughly?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

For maintenance charges alone, it will come to about Rs. 200. The animals are left in the jungle to feed. The mahouts' charges are Rs. 18 a month. There are two Elephant Vicharippus, one on Rs. 50 and another on Rs. 25, and that is Rs. 900—the pay for the whole year. The result of treatment by Veterinary Doctors was very unsatisfactory. The appointment of Koppa-rambil Nambiyar was abolished in 1076. They were hereditary Elephant Doctors. They were again appointed in Vrischigam 1099. Before I came in charge of the department, there were altogether 117 captures, 72 deaths and 45 sold. I came in charge of the department in 1087. Since then, there were 67 captures, 42 deaths and 25 sales. The Veterinary Doctor, I referred to, was in charge for two years. We had 9 deaths for those two years.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR (*Vadakkancheri*).

Is it due to the inability of the man?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

They were treated by him and they died. He conducted *post-mortem* examinations and gave certificates.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Post-mortem examinations in the case of animals?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Yes, Sir. In 1089, another Veteriary Doctor was entertained in the department. He was in charge of the elephants for 6 or 8 months, and four died in that period. In 1099, Mr. Nambiyar came in charge; and, since then, there were 13 captures and only 2 deaths. One died in the jungle.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

In 1099 there were 3 deaths.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Yes, only one died under the treatment of the Doctor, and the others died in the pits by the fall.

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Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi.*)

One only? On page 21 of the Administration Report, it is stated that there were 5 captures and 3 deaths. One died in the pit itself.

Mr A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Oh! Dying in the pit is not death. (*Laughter*)

Mr. K GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*):

With regard to the cut of Rs. 5,000 from Conservancy and Works, the total revenue budgetted under that head is over 3 lakhs. Timber is brought down by Sirkar agency, and the proportionate expenditure budgetted is Rs. 91,290. The ratio of expenditure to revenue is 1 to 4. If Rs. 5,000 is cut off from the expenditure side, the proportionate revenue also will go down. If that is agreeable, I have no objection to have the cut made. If you spend more, you will get more revenue; and if you do not, you will not. That is what it comes to.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Has that ratio been put in, in previous years? As seen from the figures, they always budget for more and they always get little.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

The present ratio is only on next year's figures. You see it from what we have budgetted. If the contractors fail to pay, owing to adverse circumstances and economic distress, they ask for an extension of time; and we are not able to get the full revevne. These circumstances cannot be foreseen when the budget is made.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*)

All that is not in the budget.

President.—The budget deals only with figures. This comes in by way of explanation.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know the total cost of teak per candy, for cutting, bringing down, removing, &c., from Parambikulam to Ernakulam?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

About Rs. 15—8—0, Sir. The cost of cutting and loading into Tram trucks comes to Rs. 5, bringing down by Tramway Rs. 9—6—0, Railway freight to Ernakulam, &c., Re. 1. To be more accurate, it comes to Rs. 15—6—0 a candy.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

For rose-wood?

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Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

The above is for both teak and rose-wood.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

We want some more information. Will the Head of the Department concerned be able to tell us how many candies of jungle-wood were extracted last year from the areas served by the Tramline?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Yes, Sir. I have got these figures in my office at Chalakkudi.

President.—He will supply this information.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I have not got them here.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

That is the consolation we have got. We want to verify them.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I will have to go to my office to give them to you.

President.—He is not ready with the figures.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Teak alone, it will be over a lakh and fifty thousand candies. Mr. Numberumal Chetty's contract alone, for 5 years, was for 60,000 candies.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know what will be the cost of bringing down one candy of timber by some means other than the Tramway?

President.—To some extent it will depend upon the distance.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Floating will be much less expensive.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Sir, I beg to know from what coupes the trees are being cut for the purpose of transport by the Tramway.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

There is one coupe which has been given in contract for the year before last.

President.—Cutting is going on in that coupe.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

At page 26, Disbursements, detailed expenditure for the Forest Department, is put Rs. 13,050 for "sowing and planting." May I know what the next item "Other Works—Rs. 12,170" means?

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President.—The Conservator will explain how we arrive at the figures.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*),

Depot lodge pay of watchers comes to Rs. 8,766. Hill allowance comes under that.

President.—When departmental statements are submitted with the budget, these things will be given, but they are not given separately in the budget.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, I rise to support this motion to cut down expenditure on Forest and Tramway by Rs. 5,700. We have in our State 590 square miles of Reserved Forests. Of these, 120 square miles are lying in the Tramway line. Now, it is seen, from 1079 onwards,—it is nearly 20 years—this Tram has been running. Originally, the Tram was to finish its work in 12 years. 20 years have rolled by, and the work is not yet over. The first estimate for the Tram was 3 lakhs, and 5 lakhs to make the Chalakkudi river navigable. In that way, 8 lakhs was the first estimate. It is the varying of estimates easily that one cannot stand at the hands of experts.

President.—Nobody can help it.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Nobody can help them, and, therefore, there are nobody called experts in the world.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Not even in the Fisheries. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

The three lakhs came to 30 lakhs, and that amount has been spent upon the Tram. That is how the experts lead us; it is in this connection that I want to say one word about the 50 lakhs for the Harbour Scheme. It is doubtful whether it will be 50 or 500 lakhs. Now, the idea was, as I said before, to work out 120 square miles, that is, 10 square miles of forest, every year, so that, in 12 years, the Tram would serve its purpose. They have not been able to clear 10 square miles a year. I have worked a forest of some square miles in a year at Thodupuzha. And I cannot see why the department has been going on for such a great number of years and has not yet finished in 20 years.

President.—Is Thodupuzha studded with trees? Such a large number of square miles is one thing, trees are another.

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Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

I shall say, now, how many candies of timber have been removed by elephants, cutting by actual labour, &c.

President.—Was it a large one?

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

I shall presently say the number of candies removed in the year. I ask the Hon'ble Member for Forests what will be the number of trees in a year, and the rate at which they were cutting for the last 20 years. I say that they have not been able to work six square miles a year. It is nearly 20 years now, since the Tram came into force, and they have not been able to work, during any year, to feed this Tram in full. That is the condition in which we are standing to-day. And, Sir, let us see whether the Cochin people enjoy the benefit of this Tram. We know that the Tram came into existence with a flourish of trumpets from Lord Ampthil about the valuable forests and the grand total that we were going to make, after it was opened. I can remember the story, Sir, although I was in Madras, of the gold mines that were going to be dug at Parambikulam, and we have found what a mine it was to swallow us up and the revenue that we got from other departments. Thousands of candies of valuable timber were given to Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., under contract, and the contract was to supply 20,000 tons of London quality. What the London quality was nobody knew. And the contract was going on for years, but the contract never ended. They were cutting timber after timber, but the contract for 20,000 tons could not be finished. They were only cutting London quality. Till that was pointed out, it was not brought to an end. The Hon'ble Member for Forests just now stated that 60,000 candies of teak was to be supplied to Mr. Numberumal Chetty. Sir, I ask the Hon'ble Member whether any discount was allowed upon the timber. It is my information that Rs. 18 per candy was to be given. I am open to correction. Rs. 18 a candy discount is given to the contractor for the supply of 60,000 candies, and when are we going to finish this 60,000 candies? We have begun this contract, and for this, we have to work the Tram. We should finish it off. I say it would be better to pay damages to the contractor and end the contract.

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Sir, 5,000 candies of ebony and rose-wood are contracted to be supplied to Muga Sait and Sons.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Mr. Numberumal Chetty's contract ended 5 years ago. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

If 16,000 candies can be supplied within such a short time, then, it shows they can work, if they have a mind to work and finish the work. 5,000 candies are to be given to Muga Sait and Sons, at 15 to 35 rupees per candy. We have seen the cost of bringing timber from Parambikulam for teak, ebony or rose-wood. It is about Rs. 15 per candy. If the minimum is Rs. 15 per candy, what is the profit we are going to make in the transaction? Whatever loss we have suffered, we have no remedy for the past losses. But what we have to do is to take care in the spending of money in the future. It has not been stated in the budget what the quantity is that they are going to exploit in the coming year. What will be the quantity of teak, rose-wood or jungle-wood that are budgetted to be brought down? They budgetted a little more than what they spent in 1099. In 1099, the total amount spent was Rs. 2,07,368, and the budget estimate for the coming year is Rs. 2,25,700. Roughly, 20,000 more is going to be spent this year. What the return we are going to get is still a proposition that is in darkness. We wish the Hon'ble Member for Forests would enlighten the House either at this session or at a future session by laying before the House the number of candies that they are going to exploit in a particular year, from the remaining area of 120 square miles. We do not know anything of the acreage that has already been finished. How many of these square miles have been exploited? How many square miles more have to be exploited, and what is the extent that is to be exploited in the coming year? If this information is given, then, the House and our country will be in a position to know where we stand. These figures, as they have been given at present, are no guide at all to come to any definite conclusion, by any member, and we are only laymen, Sir. I find from the Administrative Report for 1099 that 142 candies of teak, 17 candies of rose-wood and 14,000 and odd candies of fuel were removed from the forests by

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Government agency. That is a very small quantity—142 candies of teak in a year and 17 candies of rose-wood. It does not even come to 200. So, on the whole, for 200 candies of teak to be brought down at Rs. 15 per candy we would be requiring Rs. 3,000. Yet we find lakhs of rupees are being spent upon that particular area, calculating from the figures in the Administration Report. In the Report, I see they sold 3,223 candies of teak—I do not know where they got it from—1,073 candies of rose-wood and 7,549 candies of jungle-wood. 5,322 candies of fuel were disposed of. I fancy this may be from old stock in the department or in the departments. And this must be, not only from Parambikulam, but from other areas as well. Teak and rose-wood that come from Parambikulam form almost a negligible quantity. Is it for this negligible quantity that we spend every year Rs. 1,48,108 or so— our expenditure in 1099? And what did we get in return?

Therefore, Sir, I submit that the Hon'ble Member would be pleased to accept a small Committee to scrutinise these matters in the coming year, and to see how we can economise our expenditure, and what new methods of exploitation should be adopted, so that the Tramway might serve a useful purpose and not be a white elephant, as it is to-day. That is the suggestion that I place before the Government for their earnest consideration. We spend on the department, altogether, 2 and odd lakhs, and under Tramway Rs. 1,79,000, both together coming to nearly 4 lakhs and odd rupees. This expenditure of 4 lakhs and odd is for a budgetted income of 6 lakhs. Whether we get that income or not is doubtful, and from the experience of the past years, we find that the budget figures have never been reached, and the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi has laid before the House how very small the income is. Rs. 80,000— the highest in any year— was the total income we were able to reach. People may ask for extension of time, and there may be several causes and difficulties in the working of forests. But I submit that a plan may be laid down to work the remaining area at Parambikulam, so that the Tramway may be profitably used for that purpose, and we may make as much money as possible, in this losing concern. With these few remarks, I support the motion to cut down this amount.

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Unless a Committee is appointed to regulate the working of the department, this amount may be cut down safely. They spent last year only Rs. 2,07,000. Now, this year they want Rs. 2,25,000, when we know that it is not going to be a profitable concern. I think the figures are only imaginary. I think the amount may be cut down to that extent and retrenchment effected in the expenditure involved in the working of the forests and the Tramway.

Mr A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Sir, it has been almost the fashion for successive Governors, Residents and Diwans to extol the richness of our forests. But the policy pursued, at least, during the last six years, has been so erroneous that, at present, the boasted richness exists only in the immensity of the denudation of our forests. I desire distinctly to state that, in the criticisms that I make, I do not mean to attack any officer of the Forest Department. I am only finding fault with the policy.

Of course, the Forests and the Tramway go together. In 1099 M. E. the total net receipts amounts to a lakh and a half rupees, and the expenditure on the Tramway to Rs. 56,635. 'Receipts' include, not only income from Forests proper, but also receipts on account of seigniorage on trees cut from the plains, quit rent, and a few other sources. For the year 1099, these amounts come to Rs. 81,335. We have also to deduct the net loss on the Tramway for the year, so that the actual net income comes to about Rs. 13,000 alone. We have sold, last year, 3,233 candies of teak 1,570 candies of rose-wood, 7,549 candies of jungle-wood and 14,532 tons of fuel. What a phenomenal loss! This distressing state of affairs has been going on for some time. The figures contained in the Administration Reports, for the years 1089 to 1099 show that the total income comes to Rs. 14,85,181. Of this amount "income from other sources" makes up Rs. 6,56,073 thus leaving a net balance of Rs. 8,29,108 as income from Forests Proper. During this period, we have cut and disposed of 86,951 candies of teak, 15,084 candies of rose-wood and 2,57,677 candies of jungle-wood, not to mention the large quantity of fuel sold. Our valuable forests have been cut clear, with no adequate return whatever. The loss has been colossal.

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We have been shutting our eyes over this irremediable waste.

The Tramway has also been working at great loss. The figures, given by the Head of the Department, in answer to the interpellations, do not tally with the figures of the Administration Reports. I beg leave to invite the attention of the House to the drastic condemnation of the working of the department, printed at page 51 of the Administration Report for 1089 M.E.

"It (the Forest-Tramway) has been, for some years, recognised as a difficult question, and has caused much anxiety; but it is now reaching an acute stage and calls for a solution more insistently.....In 1082, the Tramway was opened for transport. At the end of 1088, the capital and recurring expenditure on the Tramway stood at Rs. 28,17,962, while the total value of the forest produce carried by the Tramway, after deducting the incidental charges of felling, loading, &c., of timber, at the end of that time, amounted to Rs. 14,87,826. At the ordinary rate of working the more valuable timber, which alone it can pay to transport by the Tramway, will be exhausted in about four years more, probably, by the end of 1093; and it is patent that no other rate of working, unless it be heavier exploitation, will pay, considering the large running expenses of the Tramway. On the other hand, the carrying capacity of the Tramway limits the rate of working.....The total expenditure on the Tramway, both for capital and recurring charges, and the total value of the forest produce carried by the Tramway, deducting incidental collection charges from 1082 to 1093,—when, under ordinary circumstances, the Tramway would cease to work—would roughly amount to 34 and 26 lakhs of rupees, respectively, in rough figures. Thus, the net result, so far as can be seen at present, will be the total depletion of the State's existing stock of valuable teak and rose-wood, in the area served by the Tramway, at a large cost to this State; in other words, *the State will have had to pay for destroying its valuable timber in this area.* The Tramway's future presents a problem of no little difficulty."

Mr. Banerji vacated office in March 1914, and Mr. Bhore succeeded him. The above Report is dated the 10th of August 1914. Mr. Bhore's forecast

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proved quite true. In spite of the recurring loss, the Tramway was not stopped in 1093 M.E. It is being worked still, and we have lost another eight lakhs more. Heaven alone knows why we should have persisted in this ruinous policy, and why we should continue it any longer.

President.—Have not successive Diwans examined the policy? Do the Administration Reports give us any clue?

Mr A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

The Reports contain expressions of anxiety over the matter; that is all.

President.—Did not Mr. Bhore do anything in the matter?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

None that I can see.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Mr. Bhore himself did not do anything.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know, Sir, if the previous Diwans have done anything?

President.—The problem had reached an acute stage. An examination must have been conducted.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

The Head of the Department ought to be able to give us some information.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Of all the departments of the State, the Forest Department appears to have been most hopelessly mismanaged. When there was a huge stock of all varieties already in stock, which could not be disposed of, we find felling of trees of the same species being carried on year after year.

President.—Should not the Tramway have some work to do?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

The Conservator of Forests remarked that the Tramway was "a necessary evil". Knowing it to be an evil, why should we perpetuate it? Shall we tolerate this any longer? I condemn the policy, not any particular official.

President.—Quite so.

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Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

We find, in recent years, a gradual decrease in the timber cut and stocked. This is sufficiently indicative of the fact that good trees have almost all been cut. Last year's budget shows that the increased output was in fuel. Do we need the Tramway to transport and sell fuel? Mr. Bhore says in the Report that the transport of valuable timber alone is worth doing by the Tramway.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

I did not say that fuel was being transported by the Tramway.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

The Administration Report of last year shows that large quantities of fuel were brought down and sold.

President.—Is fuel brought down by the Tramway?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

The Tramway brings about 5,000 tons of fuel for its own use.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

The Administration Report contradicts this statement. The mismanagement of the department has been going on for a long time, and I dare say the House should not countenance it any longer. (*Hear, hear.*) Let us put our heads together and try to solve the problem. If we cannot mend the Tramway, let us end it. This year the Government has budgetted for an expenditure of Rs. 1,79,200. The expected income is only Rs. 13,300. Of the allotment for expenditure, the salary of the Engineer and his travelling allowances amounting to Rs 5,040 alone are non-votable. Pages 28 to 31 of the Preliminary Budget contain the details. I request the Hon'ble Members to look up the following figures:-

Page.			Rs.	as.	ps.
28	Repairs and renewals	...	46,224	0	0
29	Repairs to bridges	...	13,600	0	0
	Repairs to staff quarters, etc.	...	11,713	0	0
	Unclassified expenditure	...	1,650	0	0
	Temporary staff	...	10,536	0	0
	Fuel, coal, etc.	...	23,000	0	0
	Temporary staff	...	2,792	0	0
	Oil, tallow, etc.	...	3,000	0	0
	Maintenance of Loco engines, etc.	...	15,766	0	0
30	Maintenance of machinery, etc.	...	4,300	0	0

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Page.		Rs.	as.	ps.
31	Unclassified expenditure ...	980	0	0
	Lump sum for unforeseen charges ...	400	0	0
	Total ...	1,33,961	0	0
	Deduct estimated probable income	13,500	0	0
	Balance ...	1,20,461	0	0

The above statement shows that, if we do not work the Tramway next year, and leave things alone, the State would distinctly gain Rs. 1,20,000. I have left alone the figures relating to the pay and allowances of the permanent staff, carriage and waggon expenses, etc. Expenses for the temporary staff need not be incurred, if we do not work the line. Let us allow all the hard-worked officers a full year's rest, (*Laughter*) on full pay and allowances. (*Renewed laughter.*) In the meanwhile, let us find out a proper solution of the vexed problem.

President:—One lakh and odd profit?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Yes, Sir. The figures speak for themselves.

President. Have we not to carry timber?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

We need not bring the stocked timber by the Tramway. We might try to dispose of them.

President.—Contractors are complaining about the delay in transporting timber.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

If there have been any forward contracts, we should try to square up matters with the contractors.

Mr C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Does the member mean that timber could be brought from Parambikulam without the help of the Tramway.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

We should try to cart the logs, if possible. We must also try to sell them at the spot to traders. Possibly, the logs may be removed to British territory through the adjoining forests. Even if the stocked logs could not be profitably disposed of, it is better for the State to leave them to rot where they are. Let us not cut any more trees in that region. Our trees have a utility of their own. They are not dangerous things

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to be destroyed at any cost. The original policy was to stop cutting in 1093 M. E.

President.—The policy is liable to revision. Is it not?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Yes, Sir. It has been revised and re-revised to our utter loss. Let us cry "halt", at least now. Let us not throw good money after bad. Let us not, in the face of these facts, extend the Tramway and spend Rs. 70,000 on repairs and new works next year. The Machad Forests were over-exploited, a few years ago, and the Government stopped cutting trees there. I think the prohibition is still in force.

President.—Is that so, Mr. Govinda Menon?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Yes, Sir.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Similarly, let us cease tapping the resources in the Parambikulam region, for the present.

Mr M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

How many square miles remain to be cut?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

We can safely carry on operations for about six years more.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

There is neither safety nor method in this unprecedented and ruinous denudation. But it is no use crying over spilt milk. Let us stop this business, and make an earnest attempt at afforestation.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

The member has been speaking over 25 minutes.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

I am entitled to twenty minutes for myself. I am afraid many of my Hon'ble friends have been sharing my allotment with me. (*Laughter.*)

President.—Yes, we interrupted you, as we wanted to know more about the subject. Have you finished? I shall allow you a minute or two more.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

I would rather stop. I wanted to bring to the notice of the House that the rules of the Forest Department, relating to the collection, by ryots, of green

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leaves for manure, require alteration. Head-loads alone could be carried free now. This is not enough.

President.—We will look into the matter.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Thank you. Sir.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

May I know, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Member will be willing to accept a Committee? My friend, Mr. A. B. Salem suggested that.

President.—Personally, I am not of opinion that a Committee is conducive to the proper working of the department; but, why should we object to it? We may leave it to the Government. The Conservator will not be able to say anything in the matter. In the light of the discussion that has been carried on in the House, the feasibility of appointing a Committee will be considered.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA (*Landlords*).

Sir, I move that, under S. O. No. 25, the question may now be put.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

Sir, I second it.

The closure motion was put to vote and was carried. Mr. Ouseph was called upon to reply.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

I have very little to say in reply. The facts and figures placed before this House make it clear that substantial retrenchment can be effected in the Forest Department. Only one thing more I may mention. One or two years ago there was a re-organisation in the department. That reorganisation would show that the department had no definite policy in these matters.

President.—Re-organisations are taking place in all the departments.

Mr. C. A OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Here it has been taking place in a circle.

President.—Not alone in the Forest Department.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

In this department, they had a sort of re-organisation abandoning the previous one. That was also in turn abandoned. In the latest re-organisation, they

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have gone back to the older one. It has been seen that we are wasting our timber and our money in working these two departments, the Tramway and Forests. If the Government is agreeable to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials to examine the working of these departments, I shall withdraw the motion.

President.—All the discussions will be borne in mind, and the advice to appoint a Committee will be considered. This is all I can say at present. Do you want the motion to be put to the vote, Mr. Ouseph?

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

I press the motion, Sir.

The motion was read out by the President and was put to votes. It was lost by a majority.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

Sufficient discussion has been borne down. I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was withdrawn with the permission of the Council. The grant for the Forest Department was passed without any reduction.

Demand X—Tramway— Rs. 1·79 lakhs.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Sir, I rise to move for a grant, not exceeding Rs. 1,74,139, for Tramway.

Motion Nos. 33 to 37.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway by Rs. 40,000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway by Rs. 9,200.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway by Rs. 50,000.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

To omit the votable allotment of Rs. 1,74,139 under Tramway.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway.

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